



A Story of Authority

December 2-3rd, 2017

SERIES: *Great Moments and Truths from Jesus*

SPEAKER: John Williamson (Timberlake/Downtown), Stephen Rabon (Altavista)

STUDY GUIDE: Christopher Shafer

CONNECT (5-10 min)

Leaders Note: *The purpose of this time is to help the members of the group grow in relationships with one another so all people in the group know they matter. Spend some time discovering what is happening in the lives of your group members.*

GROW – Review the Message Summary (30-45 min)

Leaders Note: *The goal of this section is to apply the truth of the message (not teach) so each participant is familiar with the message from Sunday morning. Good facilitators “share the leadership”. If your group has been meeting at least 8-12 weeks you should have an “apprentice”. This would be a good section for your apprentice to facilitate.*

Read: Luke 20: 9-18

9 And he began to tell the people this parable: “A man planted a vineyard and let it out to tenants and went into another country for a long while. 10 When the time came, he sent a servant to the tenants, so that they would give him some of the fruit of the vineyard. But the tenants beat him and sent him away empty-handed. 11 And he sent another servant. But they also beat and treated him shamefully and sent him away empty-handed. 12 And he sent yet a third. This one also they wounded and cast out. 13 Then the owner of the vineyard said, ‘What shall I do? I will send my beloved son; perhaps they will respect him.’ 14 But when the tenants saw him, they said to themselves, ‘This is the heir. Let us kill him, so that the inheritance may be ours.’ 15 And they threw him out of the vineyard and killed him. What then will the owner of the vineyard do to them? 16 He will come and destroy those tenants and give the vineyard to others.” When they heard this, they said, “Surely not!” 17 But he looked directly at them and said, “What then is this that is written:

“‘The stone that the builders rejected
has become the cornerstone’?”

18 Everyone who falls on that stone will be broken to pieces, and when it falls on anyone, it will crush him.”

Notes...

The Characters in the Parable

The Landlord = GOD

The Tenants = THE RELIGIOUS LEADERS OF ISRAEL

The Servants = THE PROPHETS

The Son = JESUS

The Parable of the Wicked Tenants (vs 9-16a)

- A man RENTS OUT a vineyard that he OWNS (v 9)
- The landlord sends a servant to COLLECT RENT (v 10)
- The tenants act AWFULLY (v 10b)
- The landlord TRIES AGAIN with a similar RESULT (v 11)
- A THIRD attempt with a WORSE result (v 12)
- The landlord sends a HIGHER AUTHORITY (v 13)

- The tenants GREED turns into MURDER (vs 14-15a)
- An important QUESTION (v 15b)
- The landlord DESTROYS the tenants (v 16)

The Reaction to the Parable (vs 16b-18)

- They can't FATHOM this idea (v 16b)
- Jesus makes it PERSONAL (v 17a)
- Jesus backs up his claims with SCRIPTURE (vs 17b-18)

Bottom Line: How we respond to Jesus dictates how God responds to us

For those not yet living a Jesus-centered life

- Rejecting the SON is choosing DEATH

For those living a Jesus-centered life

- Acknowledge God's OWNERSHIP of EVERYTHING you have
- Trust in God's MERCY, don't become ARROGANT
- Be as PERSISTENT and PATIENT with others as God is with you

Discussion Questions

1. Start this week off with rereading the passage of scripture and reflecting on the bottom line. Why is this parable so powerful?
2. In following the first application point, what areas in your life have you not allowed God's ownership to impact? Your home? Finances? What about who you spend your time with or how much you are looking to be entertained rather than dwelling with your Savior?
3. What kind of tenant have you been towards God this week? Have you spat on His Son's Gospel and been in disbelief? Or been uninterested with the Son he sent? Or have you been ignoring the Son because you are afraid of how he will respond to you?
4. For a moment, reflect with a group with how loving God is when he displays steadfast patience and mercy for His people. What are some key passages that reflect this? Share them with the group.
5. Now, how are we to emulate Christ and be persistently patient with others? And who do you need to specifically try and be PERSISTENTLY patient with this week?
6. Conclude the night with praying for the lost family members that members of the small group will be interacting with in the coming holiday season. Family members are one of the hardest and easiest (funny how that works) people to witness to and to display how the power of the Gospel has changed you because of what Christ has done. Pray for the names specifically that they will be with in person and pray that His kingdom come through this time that is quickly coming.

Throughout The Week: (Optional)

Enjoy a Christmas Advent of Scripture looking forward to our coming King!

December 1: Isaiah 40:9-11

December 2: Isaiah 52: 7-9

December 3: Isaiah 40:1-5

December 4: Genesis 15: 1-6

December 5: Deuteronomy 18: 15-19

December 6: Psalm 89:1-4

December 7: Isaiah 11:1-10

December 8: Micah 5:2-3

December 9: Zechariah 6:12-13